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SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

NEBRASKA

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

TO THE

GOVERNOR

FOR THE YEARS 1877 AND 1878.

LINCOLN, NEB.:

JOURNAL COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS.

1879.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

PRINCIPAL,

J. B. PARMELEE.

TEACHER LITERARY DEPARTMENT,

LUCERA HOTCHKISS.

TEACHERS MUSICAL DEPARTMENT,

JACOB NIERMEYER.....Principal.

MARTHA LANGFORD.....Assistant.

MATRON AND TEACHER,

N. K. PARMELEE.

FOREMAN OF SHOP,

JACOB NIERMEYER.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

To His Excellency, Silas Garber, Governor of Nebraska :

SIR:—I have the honor to submit the following biennial report of the Nebraska Institution for the Blind.

Acting upon authority granted by your commission, dated Nov. 17th, 1877, I assumed control of this institution Nov. 22d, 1877.

Fifteen pupils were found at that time in charge of one of the teachers.

A complete organization of the school was at once effected and work commenced in the various departments.

Eight new pupils have since been admitted and two have closed their connection with the school, making the present enrollment 21. Of these nine are males and twelve females.

The statute creating and governing this institution, wisely contemplates the education of the blind in all those arts and sciences, which will, in practical life, assist them in gaining a livelihood, and fit them for society and citizenship.

To secure this end, the school has been divided into three departments, viz: The literary, musical and industrial, separate in themselves, yet forming one complete course of instruction.

LITERARY.

The school proper is conducted upon the same general principles, and with a course of study identical with that of our best graded schools.

The Principal assisted by Miss Lucina Hotchkiss, an experienced teacher of the blind, has the work of this department in charge.

Studies pursued are Arithmetic, Algebra, Grammar and Analysis, Rhetoric, Physical and Descriptive Geography, Physiology, History, Reading, Spelling and Penmanship. As the school advances, to these will be added Astronomy, Natural History and Geometry, &c.

The one great obstacle encountered in this department, is the

lack of text books in imbossed type. Their costliness, and the very limited demand has deterred private enterprises from the undertaking their production, leaning to charity or State enterprise their publication. The supply is totally inadequate to our necessities. The instruction, except in the primary grades, is entirely oral, and the recitation hour instead of being given as it should be wholly to recitation, is to quite an extent absorbed in teaching the lesson.

Because of this the progress of pupils in institutions for the blind has not been as rapid as would otherwise be the case, and their teachers have been obliged to content themselves with comparatively slow and laborous work.

To remedy this evil, the principals of the different institutions have by concert of action, partially succeeded in securing an appropriation from Congress to meet the necessary outlay. A bill introduced by Hon. Albert S. Willis, of Kentucky, devotes the interest of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the work of printing books in imbossed type, and the manufacture of maps, &c., for the blind. This bill has passed the House of Representatives, and will undoubtedly by the coming session receive the endorsement of the Senate. This appropriation when secured will place the schools for the blind upon an equal footing with other schools, and materially shorten the time required to complete the course.

We are introducing for the use of the school what is known as the "New York System of Point Writing for the Blind." A system in which the letters of the alphabet are represented by a point or number of points, and which is much easier to learn and read than what is called the line letter. The system has also been adopted to music, furnishing a complete method for writing and printing music which will be of great value in that department. It is rapidly being introduced into the institutions for the blind throughout the country.

MUSIC.

This department is rapidly advancing in proficiency and skill under the efficient management of Jacob Niermeyer, who is himself blind, and was educated at the Iowa College for the Blind. The choirs and band meet every afternoon on alternate days, while

practice and lessons on the different instruments are in progress continuously throughout the day. Two pianos, an organ, a flute and violin make up the equipment, and are in almost constant use by the pupils. The blind, as a class, readily acquire a knowledge of music. Few but can master some department of it, and statistics concerning the graduates of the older institutions of our country have proven that they can and do use their musical education to greater advantage in self support than any of their other acquirements. Some especially proficient are able to take charge of similar departments in our public schools and academies. Others secure employment as organists in our churches, and others still contribute largely to their support by giving lessons on the different instruments at their homes, while all use the knowledge acquired to relieve the dreary monotony and ennui which fall to their lot, and are able to contribute vastly to their own happiness, and also to that of their friends.

While we would not see other departments of the school suffer because of this, or take rank below it, it is evident that no pains should be spared to render this as efficient as the necessities require.

INDUSTRIAL.

In the Industrial Department the boys and young men are required to spend a certain number of hours each day at the trades taught, viz: broom making and cane seating. The pupils experience no difficulty in acquiring a thorough knowledge of either trade, and are able in a comparatively short time to turn off first-class work. The absence of chair factories in the West which would supply work in cane seating is the only obstacle in the development of this branch.

As soon as the number of pupils will warrant we intend to introduce other trades. It must be confessed, in these days when labor-saving machines are almost superseding hand labor, the outlook in this direction is not very encouraging. Many articles which were formerly made by hand, and which the blind could readily manufacture, are now made so cheaply by machinery as to entirely shut out competition by hand labor.

The girls and young ladies are instructed in all kinds of hand and machine sewing, knitting, crocheting, bead, and fancy work.

Several of the young ladies operate the sewing machine with remarkable ease and facility. They are able to perform all kinds of work upon it with slight assistance, and take the necessary care of the machine. Much of the seamstress' work, such as the hemming of towels, sheets, etc., is all done by them. Fancy and bead work, crocheted and knit articles, are kept for sale, and, as will be seen by the financial statement accompanying this report, both the shop and fancy work department, after paying expenses, have a small surplus to their credit. Two hours per day—from two to four o'clock, P.M.—is the time allotted to this department. Enforced or voluntary idleness is the bane of the human race, and we consider our work as far from being a failure if we are able to help the pupils during their stay in the Institution to a knowledge of something whereby they are able to secure a partial, if not an entire, support after leaving its walls. ✓

Frequent and thorough reviews are considered essential, and are required in all the classes and divisions of the school.

One hour each evening is devoted to reading the papers and magazines of the day, and books of history, biography, travel, &c.

A system of reports, showing scholarship, deportment, and attendance at classes, is kept and forwarded once every three months to the parents of the pupils.

While we endeavor to train the intellect of the pupils, to make their minds storehouses of knowledge, we do not forget that there is a training that, in importance and utility, surpasses all: that which undertakes to deal with the character and with the heart. The training which relates to the formation of right habits and the development of a noble and virtuous character. It is our earnest desire and purpose to prepare them to take their station in society, assume the duties of citizenship, and lead a successful, honorable, and virtuous life.

In the Home Department, which is in the charge of the Matron, Nrs. N. K. Parmelee, it is the aim to manage affairs with economy and prudence. Not that economy that would stint and starve for the purpose of making the better showing on the yearly balance sheet, but that which avoids wastefulness and unnecessary expense. The tables are furnished with good, wholesome food, in sufficient variety, and this, with regularity of exercise—work and play—and

cleanliness of person, has secured to the pupils the enjoyment of good health and almost entire immunity from disease.

It must be apparent to all in any way conversant with the ways and methods employed in educating the blind, that the expense attending such education exceeds that of any other class. The number of teachers necessary to carry on the different departments, the cost of books and apparatus, the extra help required in the household, all combine to make the outlay comparatively large.

The liberal appropriations of the last Legislature proved sufficient, and in some cases more than sufficient to meet our necessities. The improvements on the building consist of new floors entire in the basement, two bath rooms fitted up with suitable furniture, new floors laid in the main hall and one recitation room, partitions placed in dormitories, and other alterations of a minor character. A brick pavement has been laid around the building for the protection of the walls. There have been set out the past season 200 evergreens, 200 grape vines, 100 apple trees, peach trees, shade trees, raspberry and currant bushes and other shrubbery.

The grounds have otherwise been improved by grading and the laying out of walks. A small and unproductive pasture has been plowed and made into a garden, which has given us an abundant supply of vegetables.

A brick shop has been erected, which will meet the wants of the industrial department for many years to come. Necessary machines have been purchased. The foundation to a library has been made. Two dissected maps of the United States and one of Europe have been purchased.

A piano and organ, flute and two violins have been added to the musical department.

Our immediate necessities in the way of furniture, beds and bedding have been supplied.

The appropriation for living expenses has proved much larger than was necessary, and there is a large balance unexpended. Our expenses the coming year will be less per capita than the last.

The following estimates for the next two years for living expenses, salaries, etc., are respectfully submitted:

Current expenses per year.....	\$4500.00
Officers and teachers per year.....	2500.00

Musical instruments per year	100.00
Books, apparatus, etc., " "	300.00
Furniture and Carpets " "	300.00
Beds and bedding " "	100.00
Clothing for poor " "	100.00
Improvements building and grounds for the two years...	1000.00
Physician per year	100.00

The estimate for current expenses is based upon an increase in the number of pupils, which will undoubtedly be the case.

Among the improvements necessary on the building is a thorough overhauling of the sewerage, which, when put in, was a temporary and incomplete arrangement, and is now inadequate to the demands upon it, and must soon, if not reconstructed, seriously endanger the health of all in the Institution. A water tank should be placed in the attic, and pipes leading from the same to each floor of the building for emergency in case of fire.

The rooms of the third floor have received but one coat of plaster, and should have a second and finishing coat. The entire building, inside and out, should be treated to a coat of paint.

The appropriation of the last Legislature for improvements, pavements, etc., for this institution, although expended with economy and prudence, proved insufficient, and there are still four rooms in which new floors should be laid.

The halls and three rooms are heated by a furnace, and the remainder of the building by stoves. The furnace, which was found to be in a measure inoperative at the beginning of the present administration, has, with the addition of cold air flues, been made to do very fair work. This furnace was purchased under the old board of trustees, by my predecessor, about three years ago, and has never been paid for. It has been in use more or less since its purchase, and at present, with the additional flues, is doing all that could be expected of it.

There being no funds in the hands of the present Board for the payment of the furnace, I would recommend that an appropriation be made by the Legislature to pay for the same. Cost of furnace with casing, flues, registers, &c., is three hundred and sixty-three and 38-100 dollars, (\$363.38.)

DAILY ROUTINE.

Rising bell at 5 o'clock.

Breakfast at 6 o'clock.

Chapel exercises at 8 o'clock.

Classes Literary Department from 8.10 to 11.45 o'clock.

Dinner at 12 o'clock.

Classes Literary Department from 1 to 2 o'clock.

Classes Industrial Department from 2 to 4 o'clock.

Choir and band from 4 to 5 o'clock.

Supper at 6 o'clock.

Reading hour from 7 to 8 o'clock.

Retiring bell at 9 o'clock.

Thanks are due to the proprietors of the *Nebraska City Press*, the *Nebraska City News*, the *Omaha Republican*, the *Mutes Companion*, and the *Goodson Gazette*, for the gratuitous and regular supply of those papers. Also, to the officers of the Midland Railroad for favors extended to pupils traveling over their road.

The Principal regrets the necessity of reporting the general failure of the County Superintendents of Schools to comply with the law requiring them to report the names of the blind in their counties. There are doubtless many in the State unknown to us, and who may be themselves ignorant of the character, or even of the existence, of this Institution.

The accommodations are ample for a much larger number than are now in attendance, and all means should be used to secure the attendance of all in the State.

The Principal desires the people to interest themselves in behalf of the blind and the success of this Institution, and will gladly receive information concerning any who are entitled to the privileges and benefits of the school.

Alphabet sheets and the multiplication table in embossed type will be furnished, upon application, to blind children who are too young to attend the school. Parents can greatly assist in the education of their children if they will, before they have attained the age necessary to enter here: instruct them in reading the raised print, in home geography, and the first principles of arithmetic and grammar.

Parents sending their children to this Institution may rest as-

sured that they will be kindly treated, and are cordially invited to visit the Institution and satisfy themselves as to the character of the school and the progress of their children.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT,

In account with the Nebraska Institution for the Blind, for the year ending November 15th, 1878.

1877.

Dr.

Invoice of Material.

Nov. 22.	1200	lbs broom corn @3c.,		\$36.00
"	68	" handles		1.36
"	52	" " (small)....		1.04
"	54	whisk "		1.08
				\$39.48

Material Purchased.

"	7½	lbs. broom twine.....	\$ 3.25
"	24½	" " wire.....	4.41
		" tacks.....	70
"	500	" handles.....	10.00
			18.36
			\$57.84

1878.

Cr.

Invoice of Material.

Nov. 15.	125	lbs. broom corn @3c.....	\$ 3.25
"	200	" " handles	4.00
"	24	" " " (small)...	48
"	24	" whisk "	48
"	1	paper tacks.....	20
"	2	lbs. wire	36
"	½	dozen whisks.	62
			9.89
"	10	" brooms on hand @1.85....	18 50
"	4½	" " used by Institute...	7.58
"	15½	" " sold.....	29.07
			65.04
		Balance over expenses	7.20

BEAD AND FANCY WORK DEPARTMENT.

1877.	Dr.	
Nov. 22. Invoice of Material.....	\$15.40	
“ Material purchased.....	18.96	
	<u>————</u>	\$34.36
1878.	Cr.	
Nov. 15. Invoice of material.....	\$13.30	
“ Manufactured articles on hand.....	14.00	
“ “ “ sold.....	16.02	
	<u>————</u>	\$43.32
Balance over expenses.....		\$ 8.96
“ Cash received from sale of brooms, beads, and fancy work and other sources.....	\$53.23	
“ Cash expended material, expressage, etc..	32.80	
	<u>————</u>	
Balance on hand.....		\$20.43

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS.

Those only of suitable age and capacity, and possessing a good moral character will be admitted.

The regulations of this institution require that all applicants shall, except in peculiar cases, be between the ages of nine and twenty-one years.

Tuition, board, and medical attendance are furnished all pupils free of charge during the school year; but parents or guardians are expected to provide good and sufficient clothing, pay all traveling expenses to and from the institution, and take charge of the pupils during the summer vacation.

The school year commences the first Wednesday in September, which is the proper time for the admission of new pupils.

The accompanying questions should be fully and explicitly answered.

- 1st. What is the full name of the applicant?
- 2nd. When and where born?
- 3rd. What are the names of the parents?
- 4th. Are they both living?
- 5th. What is the post-office address of the applicant?
- 6th. Is the blindness partial or total?
- 7th. At what age did he or she become blind?
- 8th. What is the supposed cause of the blindness?
- 9th. Has the applicant ever been subject to fits?
- 10th. Is he or she now in good health and free from contagious diseases?
- 11th. Has the applicant any bodily deformity?
- 12th. What school, if any, has the applicant attended?
- 13th. What is the general moral character of the applicant?
- 14th. Is he addicted to the use of spirituous liquors or tobacco?
- 15th. Is the applicant of sound mind and susceptible of intellectual culture?
- 16th. Are the parents in any way related?
- 17th. What are the pecuniary means of the parents, or the immediate relatives?
- 18th. Who will provide clothing and take charge of the applicant during vacation?

All communications should be addressed to

J. B. PARMELEE,

Prin. Institute for the Blind,

Nebraska City, Neb.

ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS FOR THE TIME COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

No.	NAME	AGE	SEX	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS	NATIVITY	WHEN ADMITTED	CAUSE OF BLINDNESS
1	Albert Aaburg.....	19	Male	Bazille Mills, Knox County, Neb.....	Norway	Feb 22, 1876.....	Small-pox.
2	Thos. M. Andrews	23	"	Brownville, Nemaha county, Neb.....	Iowa	Sept. 17, 1877.....	
3	George Aburne.....	13	"	Ulysses, Burt county, Neb.....	Illinois	Oct. 5, 1878.....	Inflammation
4	Colark Bruce.....	17	"	Tekamah, Burt county, Neb.....	Indiana . . .	Sept. 7, 1876. . .	Accident.
5	Harvey I. Carpenter. . .	20	"	Lowell, Kearney county, Neb.....	Illinois	Oct. 18, 1875. . .	Scarlet fever.
6	Mary N. Campbell.....	21	Female	Spring Creek, Johnson county, Neb..	"	March 10, 1875. .	Cataract.
7	Edie B. Campbell.....	17	"	"	"	"	"
8	Maggie L. Campbell.....	14	"	"	"	"	"
9	Lucy C. Campbell	12	"	"	"	Sept. 11, 1877	"
10	Emma Crim	15	"	Aspinwall, Nemaha county, Neb.....	Nebraska... .	May 25, 1875	Scarlet fever.
11	Etta J. Carr.....	13	"	Oak Grove, Seward county, Neb.....	Kansas	Oct. 22, 1877.. .	Inflammation.
12	Edwin C. Cook	17	Male	Brownville, Nemaha county, Neb....	Missouri. . .	Oct 17, 1878.....	Amaurosis.
13	James Cozad.....	22	"	Seward, Seward county, Neb.....	Illinois . . .	March 29, 1875	Cataract.
14	Levi A. Coryell	10	"	Clifton, Nemaha county, Neb.	Nebraska . .	Oct 30, 1878.....	"
15	Clara R. DeLong	13	Female	Belyidere, Thayer county, Neb. . .	Illinois	Nov. 2, 1878.. .	Ulceration of cornea.
16	Pauline M. Grant. . .	17	"	Valparaiso, Saunders county, Neb.....	Iowa	March 29, 1878	Granulated lids.
17	William H. Gregg.....	14	Male	Pleasant Hill, Saline county, Neb.....	Minnesota .	Nov. 15, 1877.	Congenital.
18	Guy Gibson.....	22	"	"	Indiana . .	"	Accident.
19	Mary H. Harmon.....	12	Female	Nebraska City, Otoe county, Neb.	Missouri . .	Oct. 17, 1878.. .	Fever.
20	Laura Bell Lee	12	"	Omaha, Douglas county, Neb.....	Iowa . . .	Oct. 30, 1877	Impure Vaccination.
21	Julia A. Mullins. . .	18	"	Salem, Richardson county, Neb.....	Nebraska.....	Feb. 14, 1876	Fever.
22	Philip P. Sim	22	Male	Nebraska City, Otoe county, Neb.....	Connecticut	Sept 6, 1876.. .	Inflammation.
23	Mary M. Warner. . .	21	Female	Dakota City, Dakota county, Neb. . .	Iowa	Dec. 30, 1875	"